

**AICPA Expert Witness Skills Workshop**  
**October 28-30, 2024**  
**Dallas, TX**

**Faculty Biographies**



**Stacy Collins, CPA/ABV, CFF, Financial Research Associates**

Stacy Preston Collins, CPA/ABV, CFF is a Managing Director with Financial Research Associates and has focused on forensic accounting and valuation issues since 1993. Her work involves complex financial issues in matrimonial cases, shareholder disputes, estate planning engagements, and other matters. She has testified an expert witness in several states.

Ms. Collins has testified as a financial expert on business valuation and forensic accounting issues in several states. She graduated from Drexel University with concentrations in Accounting and Finance. She holds the Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV) and Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) designations from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Ms. Collins has been on faculty for many years with the Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute (affiliated with the American Bar Association, formerly with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy) and the AAML's Institute for Family Law Associates. She was Co-Chair of the AAML/BVR National Divorce Conference (September 2022). She lectures frequently on forensic accounting and valuation issues to lawyers, judges, and financial professionals. She is a Charter Member of the Forensic & Business Valuation Division of the AAML Foundation, and is a contributing author to Financial Valuation Applications and Models (Third and Fourth Editions) and Family Law Services Handbook.



**Dan Delaney, J.D., Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP**

Dan Delaney is a seasoned trial lawyer with deep experience in accountants' liability, securities and shareholder litigation, antitrust, class actions and other complex litigation. Dan has tried and arbitrated over two dozen cases to verdict, judgment, or final award, and he has represented those clients in numerous appeals in courts across the country. He has over thirty years of experience representing major accounting firms defending claims involving complex audit, accounting, tax and advisory services. In addition to leading trial teams in courts and ADR proceedings in numerous states, Dan also represents professionals in various federal regulatory proceedings. Dan has extensive experience working with accounting and financial experts involving

numerous types of claims, and he has served for over ten years as a committee and faculty member at the AICPA's annual expert witness seminar for CPAs.



**Dave Duffus, CPA, ABV, CFF, CFE, HKA Global, LLC**

David has more than 30 years of experience providing complex litigation, forensic accounting and valuation services for businesses ranging from start-up entities to Fortune-100 companies. He has testified as an expert at deposition, trial and in alternative dispute settings more than 100 times. David also has served as an arbitrator/neutral accountant in post-acquisition and valuation-related disputes.

He earned his BA in Economics and Political Science, and his MBA in Accounting and Finance from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Accredited in Business Valuation, Certified in Financial Forensics, and is a Certified Fraud Examiner.



**Michael Fahlman, CPA, ABV, CFF, CFE, BRG**

Mr. Fahlman advises clients, including legal counsel, boards of directors, and executive management with complex commercial litigation, economic damages, valuation, dispute resolution, investigations, and distressed businesses.

During the last two decades, he has served as a neutral accounting arbitrator, consulting expert, and testifying expert. He has presented his findings in various dispute, regulatory, and administrative proceedings over one hundred times, including to federal and state courts, in arbitration, and before the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Justice, and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

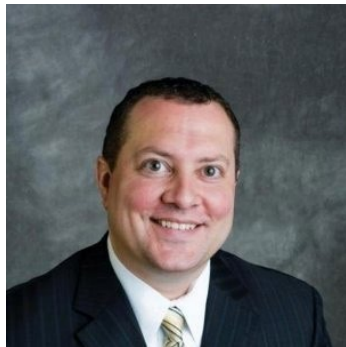


**Samuel Ferrara, J.D., Meister Seelig & Fein PLLC**

Samuel J. Ferrara is a Partner at Meister Seelig & Fein and holds the position of Chair within the Family and Matrimonial Law department. His extensive experience makes him an invaluable asset in providing legal counsel in family and matrimonial matters.

He offers representation to a diverse clientele, addressing an array of matrimonial and family law concerns. He also counsels in transactional, corporate, and commercial matters. He possesses a specialized skill set representing high net worth cases, with a strong focus on contentious custody disputes, and intricate commercial transactions.

Mr. Ferrara provides comprehensive legal guidance across every stage of divorce and separation, including handling complex custody and parental access disputes, as well as support and property distribution matters. In addition, he has extensive experience in handling corporate and commercial matters, addressing a wide range of transactions, from multimillion-dollar entity buy/sell agreements to individual deals involving employment, shareholder and partnership agreements, licensure, real estate, and general business consultation. He is also well-versed in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), serving both as mediation counsel and mediator across a wide spectrum of disciplines.



**Jim Godbout, ASA, CVA, CDFA, CFE, CFP, Marcum**

James M. Godbout is a partner in the Advisory Services practice in the Firm's Chicago office. He specializes in business valuation, dispute advisory, and financial consulting. James has provided valuation, dispute advisory, financial consulting, and forensic accounting services for numerous purposes, including marital dissolutions, shareholder disputes, estate and gift taxation, business succession planning, commercial litigation, economic damage analysis, breach of contract, property tax appeals, Employee Stock Ownership Plans, class action suits, reasonable compensation, financing, purchase and sale advisement, executive stock options, and other tax, corporate, and litigation related matters. He has testified in federal court, state court and at American Arbitration Association proceedings. Additionally, he has been trained in mediation and collaborative law.

James' experience encompasses a wide range of industries, including but not limited to, automotive, banking, physician practices, dental practices, insurance, manufacturing, law firms, healthcare, financial services, private equity funds, hotels, assisted living, retailing, wholesale distribution, consulting, trucking, brokerage, construction, restaurants, software, and consumer products. He has lectured, published articles, and presented continuing education seminars for organizations such as the American Bar Association (ABA), American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE), Northwestern University School of Law, John Marshall Law School, Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS), and several local bar associations.

James previously served as the Business Valuation Chairperson for the Chicago Chapter of the American Society of Appraisers (ASA). He is a current member of the ASA, National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts (NACVA), Institute of Divorce Financial Analysts (IDFA), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), Financial Planning Association, and Chicago Estate Planning Council and a Charter Member of the AAML Foundation – Forensic and Business Valuation Division.



**Mona Hosseiny-Tovar, J.D., Goranson Bain Ausley**

Mona Hosseiny-Tovar was licensed as an attorney in Texas in 2015 and for the first 6 years of her legal career, she practiced in Family law, Immigration law, and Criminal Defense with Hosseiny & Herrera Law Firm in Dallas, Texas. Mona joined Goranson Bain Ausley in October of 2022 as an Associate attorney in the Dallas office, and she now focuses her legal practice exclusively in Family Law, with specialties in adoptions, divorce and child custody litigation and negotiations, protective orders, and contempt actions. In her free time, Mona enjoys spending quality time with

her family, listening to spiritual podcasts, and writing poetry and jokes. Mona is fluent in the Persian language, and she's currently a member of the Dallas LGBT Bar Association and the Dallas Bar Association.



**Deborah Johnson, MC, High-Stakes Communication, LLC**

Deborah is President of High-Stakes Communication, LLC. She is an industry expert in effective communication with a Masters degree in Cognitive Psychology and Television Production. She is a 6-time EMMY Award-winning writer/producer. Deborah has consulted on a wide variety of high-stakes family law, civil, and criminal cases, including multi-million dollar divorce cases and civil suits up to \$100 million. The toughest witnesses are her specialty. She understands emotional, abrasive, defensive, unpredictable, and distraught clients. Her unique background helped her develop proven practices to break down old habits and give witnesses new skills so they can deliver confident, clear testimony at

deposition or trial. She regularly coaches expert witnesses for improved communication skills in deposition and trial.



**Hon. Cheryl Joseph, J.D., Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Parts, Suffolk County Supreme Court at NYS Unified Court System**

Judge Joseph was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the NYS Court of Claims on May 5, 2015. She currently presides over matrimonial cases in the Supreme Court, Suffolk County. Her professional experience includes the positions of Adjunct Professor of Law at Touro Law Center in Central Islip, New York, Support Magistrate in Family Court (NYC and Suffolk County), Supervising Court Attorney in Queens Family Court, Domestic Violence Court Coordinator for the Center for Court Innovation, and Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan.

In August, 2020 Judge Joseph was appointed to the position of Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Parts for Suffolk County. She is a frequent lecturer and presenter on family and matrimonial law for

various organizations including the New York State Judicial Institute, the New York State Bar Association and the Suffolk County Bar Association. She has been appointed to the New York State Unified Court System's Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee and the Matrimonial Curriculum Committee for the New York State Judicial Institute.

Judge Joseph received her Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy from New York University's College of Arts and Science in 1993. She received her Juris Doctor degree from New York University School of Law in 1996 wherein she also received the Myron L. Greene Award for Oral Advocacy.

Judge Joseph was born in Brooklyn, New York to Edward and Ruby Joseph who both immigrated to the United States from the West Indies. She was raised in Elmont New York and attended Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville, New York. She currently resides in Suffolk County with her two sons, Bryce and Ethan.



**Bennett Lasko, J.D., Lasko Legal Services**

Bennett Lasko has practiced more than 30 years as a commercial litigation attorney on behalf of clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies and international accounting firms to small businesses, business principals, and individual investors. His work typically focuses on financial statement and accounting issues, post-acquisition disputes, business valuation, fiduciary duties, business break-ups, and business contracts. He has litigated cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts across the United States, and regularly represents clients in private arbitration.

Bennett graduated with honors from Grinnell College and earned a J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School. Since 2013, he has been peer-selected as an Illinois Leading Lawyer in Commercial Litigation and Civil Appellate Law. In 2016, he was selected as a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. He opened Lasko Legal Services, Ltd. in 2016 after nearly 25 years in private practice with two well-known international law firms.



**Lauren Melhart, J.D., Kinser & Bates**

Lauren E. Melhart is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Ms. Melhart has extensive experience within the family law field, including several years as a Child Protective Services prosecutor. She has written articles for the State Bar of Texas, the American Bar Association, and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers on a variety of family law issues and given speeches to a number of family law related organizations across the country. Ms. Melhart is a faculty member with the American Bar Association's Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyer's Institute for Family Law Associates, and the AICPA.



**Sarah Milinsky, J.D., GoransonBain Ausley**

Sarah Aminzadeh Milinsky is a family law associate at Goranson Bain Ausley, PLLC in Plano, Texas. She graduated from UNT Dallas College of Law in 2021 and became a licensed attorney in 2022. Away from her practice, Sarah enjoys reading, camping and hiking, baking, and spending time with her husband, friends, and family.



**Hon. Samuel Thumma, Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals**

SAMUEL ANDERSON THUMMA. Judge (2012-present) and former Chief Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals. Judge, Maricopa County Superior Court (2007-12). Uniform Law Commissioner; chair, ABA Judicial Division Appellate Judges Conference; Advisor, ALI RESTATEMENT OF THE LAW (THIRD) OF TORTS: REMEDIES. Chair, Arizona Commission on Access to Justice; co-chair, Arizona COVID-19 Continuity of Court Operations During Public Health Emergency Workgroup and co-editor, ARIZONA APPELLATE HANDBOOK. Frequent speaker and author. Former partner, Perkins Coie Brown & Bain, P.A., Phoenix, and associate, Arnold & Porter, Washington, D.C. Law clerk, Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Stanley G. Feldman and Judge David R. Hansen, U.S.D.C. N.D. Iowa. Master of Laws, Duke University School of Law (2020); J.D., University of Iowa College of Law (1988); B.S., Iowa State University (1984).